



# Clay Community Health Happenings

Nancy J. Mills, Administrator

June 2011

904-529-2800

## Clay County Health Department News

### Dental Collaborative a Success

On May 5, 2010, the Baker/Clay Dental Clinic opened its doors for the first time. This clinic, located next to the Health Department at 1343 Idlewild Avenue in Green Cove Springs, is a collaborative effort involving the Baker and Clay County Health Departments, the Clay County Dental Society, and the Clay County Board of County Commissioners.

During the past year, the clinic has served 1,216 children, providing 3,193 patient visits during which 13,122 services were performed. "This is truly a valuable collaborative, which minimizes overhead and maximizes community resources," said Nancy Mills, Clay County Health Department Administrator. "This clinic, along with the work being done by the Clay Dental Society, helps to fill the gap in dental services for our residents."

Children must be covered by Medicaid to be seen at the Baker/Clay Dental clinic. To make an appointment or other information parents should call (904) 531-9695. Low income Clay County adults can obtain dental care on a lottery system through the Clay County Dental Society every other Friday in the same building. Adults should arrive

by 6:45 a.m. to be eligible for the lottery drawing for services that Friday. While there is no charge for adult services, donations are accepted.

### "We Care" Program Info

The We Care Program is a "last resort" for many Clay County clients in need of medical care. The main focus of the program is to link uninsured and financially challenged clients in need of care that goes beyond what can be addressed in a family practice setting. Qualified clients are referred to the We Care Coordinator with the hope that needed services can be found. There are no funds to compensate for any care provided to clients through the We Care program. This Volunteer Health Care Provider Program is an unfunded program and must rely on volunteers and donated services.

The coordinator is a registered nurse and acts as a recruiter of specialty physicians and donated services for client's medical needs, and when successful, acts as a case manager for the client while those needs are being met.

During the last reporting year, it was noted that Clay County Health Department had 57 licensed health care

providers who had signed agreements to be members of the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. During that same year, it was estimated that the participating physicians donated over \$46,000 in valued service to our clients. In addition, over \$300,000 of services were donated by partners working with the We Care Program to complement the uncompensated care given by physicians in order to satisfy the medical needs of our financially challenged medical population. Unfortunately, there are so many more needs that go unmet.

Far too often, there is a need for diagnostic testing to assist the volunteer physician in making a diagnosis or plan for treatment. Uninsured and at a poverty level, the typical We Care client cannot afford anything from a basic X-Ray to a more expensive tests such as CT or MRI. There is a great need for assistance for diagnostic testing, but often client's have to put care on hold until they can borrow money or save for the cost of an ordered test.

Sincere gratitude is given to the Paul and Klare Reinhold Foundation for recognition of this need. Each year, numerous worthy community organizations seek the opportunity to be selected for



Clay County Health Department  
PO Box 578  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0578





**Nancy Mills, Administrator**

# **Clay Community Health Happenings**

**June 2011**

**cont'd**

an award that will help make a positive difference to those served by the organization.

This year, the Foundation presented \$65,000 in awards to 52 leading applicants during the awards breakfast held May 17, 2011. The Clay County Health Department We Care Program was delighted to receive a \$500 award that will be put to use assisting with the cost of needed diagnostic tests to support the evaluation and/or treatment provided by selfless volunteer physicians.

Many thanks to The Paul and Klare Reinhold Foundation and the Volunteer Health Care Providers who care about improving the quality of life for so many.

## **School Team Activity**

As part of a community outreach directed at 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who needed to receive a required Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis vaccination, the School Health team partnered with the Clay County School District's junior high schools. The School Health team arranged to offer these immunizations at three of the schools as part of their regularly scheduled school functions. The School Health and Communicable Diseases/Epidemiology teams were able to provide 259 immunizations to students free of charge.

The School Health team partnered with the Clay

County School District to provide a risky behavior reduction program to Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School. It was a state of the art stage production of live music, drama and real life stories to impress upon the students the importance of goal setting and making the right choices in life, as well as exposing the dangers of drugs, alcohol and premarital sex. There were approximately 1,300 students who attended the two sessions provided during the school day, with about 700 students and parents attending an additional night session.

In a single community outreach partnership, the School Health team and the St. Vincent's Mobile Health Unit combined forces at one junior high school. They provided Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis vaccinations to 139 of this school's students, during the school day. It was such a huge success that they hope to continue partnering together for this type of venue in the coming school years.

## **Teams Honored by Youth Challenge Academy**

The Clay County Health Department Epidemiology team has partnered with the Duval County Health Department HIV prevention staff and the National Guard Florida Youth Challenge Academy (FLYCA) to provide classes on healthy behaviors and disease prevention

education. This year, the Health Department team members (Connie Wolfe, Judy Twarog, Rodney Brown and Torrencia Shiloh) were asked to attend the FLYCA graduation ceremony on Saturday June 11, 2011. After the cadets in the program had spoken with their counselors and directors about how valuable this class was in providing sexually transmitted infection prevention education, the Deputy Director at the Academy decided a partnership award should be presented at the graduation ceremony. The Clay County and Duval County Health Departments were both honored to receive this Partnership Award.

Previous cadets had also expressed their enthusiasm for this program and the vital education it provides. Candid and accurate information on healthy behaviors and disease education/prevention is presented, followed by a question and answer session. This program is successful in part because Connie and Judy gain the trust of the students and present information on reproductive health care that the students want and need, in a way that the students relate to and can understand.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates for teens in Clay are higher than we would like to see. This program is one way CCHD works to protect and preserve the health of our young residents.



Clay County Health Department  
PO Box 578  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-0578

